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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: FORMER DEPUTY ASSISTANT
SECRETARY OF STATE RANDY SCHRIVER'S TAIWAN TRIP, U.S.-

SIPDIS

CHINA-TAIWAN RELATIONS

1. Summary: Local politics and the arrest of one of Taiwan's most wanted fugitives remained the focus of attention for the major Taipei daily newspapers July 14. The pro-independence "Taiwan Daily" was the only Chinese-language newspaper that reported on a Central News Agency (CNA) interview with visiting former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Randy Schriver prior to his departure Wednesday. The "Taiwan Daily" ran the news story on an inside page with the headline: "Randy Schriver: Taiwan will likely have to pay a price if it fails to enhance its defense capability." The newspaper also carried short reports on the reactions of the DPP and the Pan-Blue Camp to Schriver's remarks on U.S. arms sales to Taiwan. The first "Taiwan Daily" article ran with the headline: "DPP agrees with Schriver's remarks on [U.S.] arms sales." The second short article ran with the two-part headline: "Blue Camp: [the special arms procurement budget] will be listed in [the government's] fiscal budgets; PFP: Taiwan will not buy anti-missile equipment." In the meantime, while the pro-independence "Liberty Times," Taiwan's biggest daily newspaper, did not run the CNA interview with Schriver, it did run an article on its page four with a headline that read: "A U.S. decision-making official complemented Taiwan as the most stable [U.S.] ally." The sub-headline added: "A Presidential Office official emphasized that Washington-Taipei ties are developing stably. It will benefit the bilateral relations all the more if both the ruling and opposition parties could quickly pass the [U.S.] arms procurement bill to prove Taiwan's determination to defend itself."

2. In addition, the "Taiwan Daily" editorialized on Schriver's remarks regarding the U.S. arms sales to Taiwan. The editorial noted that perhaps the United States could exercise its influence and persuade the Pan-Blue legislators not to boycott the arms procurement bill again. A "Liberty Times" commentary also discussed U.S.-China-Taiwan relations, noting that if Taiwan wants to maintain its independent sovereignty, the only way to pursue peace in the Taiwan Strait would be for Taiwan to play well its role of a major ally to the United States in the region. End summary.

1. Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Randy Schriver's Taiwan Trip

"Randy Schriver, 'Friend of Taiwan,' Visits the Island; [His Remarks] Provide [an Opportunity] for the Taiwan People to Ponder Taiwan's Strategic Position and They Are Worthy of Contemplation by Both the Ruling and Opposition Parties"

The pro-independence "Taiwan Daily" [circulation: 150,000] editorialized (7/14):

". [Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State] Randy Schriver, however, directly pointed out that Taiwan's delayed decision to pass a special budget for purchasing the U.S. weapons will, without a doubt, cause it to 'miss a chance' and Taiwan 'will have to pay for it' in the future.

"Schriver did not specify what kind of a price Taiwan will have to pay, but he did provide the information for Taiwan to ponder, namely, if the passage of the arms procurement bill keeps being delayed, it would certainly impact the U.S. Pacific Command's ability to intervene in a Taiwan Strait crisis and could also impact the political climate on Capitol Hill. Moreover, in addition to the repeated requests by some U.S. officials recently urging Taiwan to 'demonstrate its determination to defend itself,' the U.S. Congress, which used to support Taiwan greatly, has also started to echo calls by the U.S. executive branch. Thus, we believe that Schriver's remarks reveal that the U.S.

executive and legislative branches are getting impatient with Taiwan's stalled decision to pass the arms procurement bill.

"Just as Schriver said, no one should `cover up the fact of China's rising.' . We must point out again that both Washington and Tokyo can tell the importance of Taiwan's strategic position, and so can the Chinese government in Beijing. The real intent behind China's grave desire to take over Taiwan's sovereignty is not entirely because it wants to `complete the grand task of Chinese unification' but because it wants to successfully control this strategic port in the Pacific Ocean by taking Taiwan's territory. All Beijing aspires to is to become a Pacific Rim country that possesses sea dominance, and Taiwan is the perfect gateway for China to enter the Pacific Rim area. This is where Beijing's real intent to obtain Taiwan lies.

"It was based on such a strategic understanding that the United States demanded that Taiwan strengthen its national defense capabilities and not rely solely on the military support provided under the U.S.-Japan security pact. Nonetheless, we want to tell our foreign friends who support Taiwan, such as Schriver, that the DPP government has never neglected its duty to push for the arms procurement bill that can help safeguard our national security. The problem, on the contrary, lies with the pro-China Pan-Blue legislators who insist on boycotting the bill. The Taiwan authorities, of course, have the responsibility to negotiate and openly explain [the situation] to the Pan-Blue legislators, in order to seek their support for the bill. Perhaps the United States can also exercise its influence via certain channels to persuade those Pan-Blue political parties not to boycott the bill any more. ."

12. U.S.-China-Taiwan Relations

Journalist Su Yung-yao noted in the "Focus Review" column of the pro-independence "Liberty Times" [circulation: 800,000] (7/14):

". For Beijing, an unstable status quo [in the Taiwan Strait] can better provide it with an excuse to intervene [in Taiwan affairs.] In terms of geopolitics, if China wants to become a hegemonic power in the Asia-Pacific region, the key is to break through the First Island Chain, of which Taiwan is a part.

"In terms of practical interests, unless Taiwan is under China's sphere of influence, it will never be able to see China's goodwill no matter what it does or compromises on. .

"All these indicate that if Taiwan wants to maintain its independent sovereignty and not be forced to unify [with China], the only way to pursue peace across the Taiwan Strait is to play well its role as a major ally of the United States in the Asia-Pacific region.

"During its two terms in office, the Bush administration, even in the face of intense threats posed by international terrorism, has made the American people realize that conciliation and a perfunctory attitude will not make their lives any safer.

"By the same token, in the face of the Beijing regime that will not abandon using non-peaceful means to invade Taiwan, Taiwan's only way to protect itself is to strengthen its relationship with the United States. ."

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